

This guide is subject to revision based on which option is selected in the RAC/Board Process.

Articles will be added explaining hunt choices, waiting periods, boundary changes and season dates.

Wild turkeys in Utah

It's hard to believe, but less than 20 years ago, there were only a handful of wild turkeys in Utah. Today, the state is home to a thriving and growing population of more than 18,000 birds.

As Utah's turkey population grows, more and more hunters are discovering the thrill that comes from hunting turkeys. It's a hunt that combines skill, solitude and excitement.

This guide has been put together to make your turkey hunting experience a safe and enjoyable one. Inside, you'll find several turkey hunting articles. You'll also find information about how to obtain a turkey permit; the rules you must follow while hunting turkeys; and what you need to do with any turkey you take.

The Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) hopes you're one of the fortunate hunters who obtains a turkey permit for the upcoming season and wishes you a safe and enjoyable time hunting turkeys in Utah this spring.

Please be aware that this guide is only a summary of the rules that regulate turkey hunting in Utah and is intended as a short, ready reference for hunters. Further review of the rules and laws governing the taking of turkeys in Utah is advised. These rules and laws may be accessed at wildlife.utah.gov/rules or the nearest Division office.

As you read through the guide, you'll notice references to wildlife rules and laws under each subheading (for example, Utah Admin. Code R657-6-9 and Utah Code § 23-19-1). These references will help you find the complete rule or law when you visit wildlife.utah.gov/rules or the nearest Division office.

We hope you have a successful turkey hunt in Utah this spring!

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Wildlife Board members

Paul Niemeyer, Chair
Rick Woodard
Lee Howard
Keele Johnson
Tom Hatch
Ernie Perkins
Del Brady
James F. Karpowitz, DWR Director, Executive Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS

What's new this season?

Hunting or Combination License required: To apply for or obtain a limited entry permit, Landowner, Conservation, Convention, Sportsman or Poaching-reported reward turkey permit, you must possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license.

Minimum hunting age removed: The Utah legislature removed the minimum age at which a person can hunt turkeys in Utah. Any person who has completed a hunter education course offered or approved by the Division of Wildlife Resources can now apply for or purchase a turkey permit, regardless of the person's age. Please see the Age Requirements and Hunter Education Requirements portions of this guide on page X for more information and take a young person turkey hunting this spring!

Private lands open to turkey hunting: More than 5,000 acres of private land in northern Utah will be open to turkey hunting this spring. To learn more about Utah's Walk-In Access program, please see page X of this guide or visit wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess on the Web.

New Application Procedure for Swan Permits: New in 2007, if you want to apply for a swan permit you MUST apply online at wildlife.utah.gov beginning November 28, 2007 and ending at 11:00 pm on December 26, 2007. Applying online is quick and easy, but if you have questions call (801) 538-4700. Over-the-phone applications will be taken until 5:00 pm on December 26. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and VISA credit and debit cards are the only accepted methods of payment. Drawing results will be available by January 31, 2008.

Also remember

Application period: Applications for 2008 turkey permits will be accepted from November 28 to December 26, 2007. Please see page X of this guide for more information.

Hunt numbers: The hunt tables are on pages XX-XX of this guide and are available online at wildlife.utah.gov The tables are organized by public land, private land and CWMU hunts. Blue 3-digit numbers are included in the tables for each hunt. Make sure you've included the correct blue 3-digit number on your application for the hunt for which you're applying.

Permits for youth hunters: Up to 15 percent of Utah's limited entry Merriam's and Rio Grande turkey permits have been set aside for youth hunters. "Youth" means any person 18 years of age or younger on January 31, 2008.

Landowner turkey permits: Landowners who are interested in obtaining landowner turkey permits must contact the regional Division office in their area from November 15 - December 15, 2007 to be eligible for the landowner turkey permit drawing. They must also complete an online turkey application prior to 11:00 pm on December 26, 2007.

Landowner designees: Under the landowner turkey permit program, landowners can designate lessees to receive permits. Make sure you've designated on your application the lessee who will receive the permit. For the purposes of the landowner turkey permit program, "immediate family" means the landowner's or lessee's spouse, children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepchildren and grandchildren.

Cooperative Wildlife Management Units: Several Cooperative Wildlife Management Units (CWMUs) will be open to turkey hunting this spring. Please see page XX for more information.

Private lands: You must obtain written permission from the landowner or an authorized representative of the landowner to enter upon privately owned land that is cultivated or properly posted. "Cultivated land" means land that is readily identifiable as: 1) land whose soil is loosened or broken up for the raising of crops; 2) land used for the raising of crops; or 3) pasturage that is artificially irrigated.

License suspension: The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has the authority to suspend hunting and fishing privileges if the Division deems that a wildlife violation was committed knowingly, intentionally or recklessly. Any person who is convicted of, pleads guilty to, no contest to, or enters a plea in abeyance to, a wildlife violation may be subject to administrative suspension. Notification of such action is generally served only after criminal proceedings have been concluded. Any Utah order of suspension may be recognized in other states participating in the Wildlife Violator Compact.

TURKEY DRAWING RESULTS

Drawing results will be available January 31, 2008. For drawing results call Utah Wildlife Administrative Services toll-free at 1-800-221-0659 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or go online: wildlife.utah.gov. In the interest of protecting applicant privacy, and to comply with recent changes in governmental records access laws, applicants may obtain access to their own drawing results only.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Salt Lake Office
1594 W North Temple
PO Box 146301
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
(801) 538-4700

Southeastern Region
475 W Price River Dr., Ste. C
Price, UT 84501
(435) 636-0260

Southern Region
PO Box 606
1470 N. Airport Rd.
Cedar City, UT 84720
(435) 865-6100

Central Region
1115 N Main St.
Springville, UT 84663
(801) 491-5678

Northeastern Region
152 E 100 N
Vernal, UT 84078
(435) 781-9453

Northern Region
515 E 5300 S
Ogden, UT 84405
(801) 476-2740

SAFETY TIPS FOR TURKEY HUNTERS

Utah's wild turkey hunt has been a safe one so far, and the Division of Wildlife Resources wants to keep it that way. "While turkey hunting is a very safe activity, accidents do occur in other parts of the country every year," says Dean Mitchell, upland game coordinator for the DWR.

Mitchell says the way turkeys are hunted, with hunters in camouflage moving quietly through wooded areas; the heavily forested areas in which turkeys are typically hunted in other parts of the country; and the sheer volume of people involved in turkey hunting all contribute to accidents.

"As Utah's turkey population continues to grow, we'll be able to put more and more hunters into the field, and that increases the chance that an accident will happen," Mitchell says. "Fortunately, there are several things hunters can do to keep themselves safe."

Mitchell shares the following tips from the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF):

- Select a stump, tree trunk or rock that is wider than your shoulders and higher than your head to place your back against when calling; this will protect your back should another hunter move in behind you.
- Eliminate the colors white, red, black and blue from your hunting outfit. This includes handkerchiefs, socks and underwear. These are the colors of a turkey gobbler.
- Select your calling spot in open timber rather than thick brush; if you limit your movement, turkeys won't see you and it will be easier for other hunters to spot you.
- Be discreet when imitating the sound of a gobbling turkey.
- A good woodsman can always detect movement in the forest by watching other game or listening for the alarm cries of blue jays, crows, squirrels or woodpeckers. Be alert, as these sounds can alert you that another hunter is moving into your area.
- When songbirds, crows or your turkey shuts up, that's another reason to look out. There's a good chance another hunter is moving in on your bird.
- Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence. Remain still and speak in a loud, clear voice to announce your presence. Speaking in a loud, clear voice is safer than making quick movements.

Following these tips will help keep you safe. According to the NWTF, spring turkey hunting incidents decreased from a high of 8.1 per 100,000 hunters in 1991 to a low of 2.95 per 100,000 in 2005. Statistically, turkey hunting is four times safer than ping-pong, and you're 50 times more likely to take a trip to the emergency room if you play golf.

For more information about hunting wild turkeys, visit the NWTF's Web site at nwtf.org/new_hunting_tactics.html.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS TO HUNT TURKEY

Obtaining a turkey permit is the first step to hunting turkeys in Utah. Most Utah turkey permits are known as limited entry permits, because only a limited number of hunters are allowed to hunt in Utah's turkey units. This section provides information about limited entry turkey permits and about other turkey permits that also are available in Utah.

Turkey permits

Utah Code § 23-19-1

To hunt turkeys in Utah, you must first obtain a hunting or combination license and a turkey permit. The turkey permit must be carried with you while you're hunting. You cannot alter your permit or transfer it to another person.

You may obtain one turkey permit each year. The only time you may possess more than one turkey permit is if, in addition to your regular permit, you also obtain a turkey conservation permit. More information about conservation permits is available under the "Additional turkey permits" section on this page.

Your turkey permit allows you to take one bearded turkey within the area and during the season specified on your permit. Most mature male turkeys have a beard, and about 20 percent of mature female turkeys have one too. Please see

page XX of this guide to learn what a beard looks like and where it's located on a turkey.

Limited entry and landowner turkey permits are available through a drawing. Permits that remain after the drawing are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Information about how to apply for a turkey permit is available on page X of this guide.

Age requirements

Utah Code § 23-20-20

While hunting with any weapon, a hunter under the age of 14 must be accompanied by his or her parent, a legal guardian or a responsible person 21 years of age or older who their parent or guardian has approved to take them hunting. There is no minimum age at which a person can hunt turkeys in Utah.

Hunters who are 14 or 15 must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older.

To qualify as “accompanied,” the youth and adult must be close enough that the adult can see and verbally communicate with the youth in order to provide direction and assistance. The adult cannot use electronic devices, such as walkie-talkies or cell phones, to communicate with the youth hunter-the adult must be close enough to provide the youth hunter with direction and assistance.

Hunter education requirements

Utah Code § 23-19-11 and Utah Admin. Code R657-23

If you were born after December 31, 1965 and want to buy a hunting license or apply for a turkey permit, you must provide proof that you’ve passed a hunter education course approved by the Division.

The Division and its license agents will accept the following as proof that you’ve completed hunter education: a certificate of completion of a hunter education course (this certificate is referred to as a “blue card” in Utah) or a hunting license with your hunter education number noted on the license.

If you become a Utah resident, and you’ve completed an approved hunter education course in another state, province or country, you must obtain a Division-issued blue card in order to buy a resident hunting license or turkey permit. You may obtain a Utah blue card at any Division office by providing proof that you’ve completed an approved hunter education course. The card costs \$10.

Hunting accommodations for people with disabilities

Utah Admin. Code R657-12

If you have certain physical disabilities, you may qualify for special hunting accommodations in Utah. For a complete copy of these regulations (Utah Admin. Code R657-12) visit wildlife.utah.gov/rules or call any Division office.

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Permit fees

Resident fees	
Limited entry turkey permit	\$45 *
Landowner turkey permit	\$45 *
CWMU turkey permit	\$45 *
Nonresident fees	
Limited entry turkey permit	\$110 *
Landowner turkey permit	\$110 *
CWMU turkey permit	\$110 *

*All permit fees listed include a \$10 nonrefundable handling fee.

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Additional turkey permits

In addition to limited entry permits, four other turkey permits—conservation, landowner, Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) and poaching reported reward permits—are available.

Conservation permits

Utah Admin. Code R657-41

Turkey conservation permits are available from nonprofit conservation organizations. The organizations usually sell the permits at fundraising banquets. A list of organizations selling conservation permits for Utah's 2008 turkey season will be available at wildlife.utah.gov by late November.

More information about obtaining conservation permits is available by contacting the nearest Division office or by reviewing Utah Admin. Code R657-41 at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

You may obtain conservation permits in addition to a limited entry, landowner, CWMU or poaching reported reward permit you've also obtained.

Landowner permits

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-6

If you own land that supports turkeys in Utah, you may qualify to apply for a landowner turkey permit. Landowner permits are a way to thank landowners for maintaining and enhancing turkey habitat on private land and to encourage them to do so in the future. When landowners maintain and enhance habitat for turkeys, everyone wins: landowners may qualify for a landowner turkey permit and public hunters have access to turkeys that move from private land to public land during the hunting season.

If you're interested in applying for a landowner permit, you must obtain a landowner permit application by contacting the regional Division office in your area no later than December 15, 2007.

More information about obtaining landowner permits is available by contacting the nearest Division office or reviewing Utah Admin. Code R657-54-6 at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit permits

Utah Admin. Code R657-37

You can enjoy hunting turkeys on private property in Utah through the state's Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) program. Here's how the CWMU program works:

Private lands are designated as a CWMU if the landowner works with the Division to manage the land for turkeys. Private landowners who own land that qualifies as a CWMU are given permits they can sell to hunters. In return, the landowner agrees to allow an equal number of public hunters, who obtain a permit for his property through the state's drawing, onto his CWMU to hunt.

The CWMU program is a win-win situation for everyone: public hunters gain access to private lands that were once closed to them and landowners receive a financial incentive to manage their lands for turkeys.

Two ways are available to obtain a CWMU permit. You can apply for one in the turkey drawing or you can contact a CWMU operator directly to inquire about purchasing a permit from the operator. Please see page XX of this guide for a list of CWMU operators and the number of permits offered on their CWMUs through the turkey drawing this season.

More information about obtaining a CWMU permit is available by contacting the nearest Division office or by reviewing Utah Admin. Code R657-37 at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

Poaching reported reward permits

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-22

If you provide information that leads to the arrest and successful prosecution of a person who has illegally taken a turkey, you may be eligible to receive a permit from the Division to hunt turkeys the following year on the same limited entry area where the violation occurred. (This illegal take must be a violation of Utah Code 23-20-4, called "wanton destruction.")

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Types of turkey permits

Combinations of permits a person can have

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PRIVATE PROPERTY OPENS TO TURKEY HUNTERS

Wild turkey hunters in northern Utah were the first in the state to try the Division of Wildlife Resource's new Walk-In Access program last spring.

From their reaction, it appears the program is a huge success.

"The hunters I talked with were excited to have free access to so much private property, and most of them were happy with the number of turkeys they saw," says Clint Brunson, Walk-In Access coordinator for the DWR. "Several of them took

really nice birds.”

By early October 2006, more than 37,000 acres in northern Utah were enrolled in the program. About 5,000 of those 37,000 acres are prime habitat for wild turkeys.

Wild turkey hunters can learn more about the program by visiting the DWR's Web site at wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess.

The program is being tried in northern Utah on a three-year experimental basis. If it's successful, hunters in other parts of the state could find themselves stalking and calling turkeys on private property they never dreamed they'd be able to hunt.

APPLYING FOR A TURKEY PERMIT

Your first and best chance to obtain a Utah turkey permit is through the state's annual turkey drawing. Permit applications are available at wildlife.utah.gov.

Only American Express, Discover, MasterCard and VISA credit or debit cards may be used as payment and they must be valid through March 2008.

Handling fees and donations will be charged to your credit or debit card when your application is processed.

Permit fees are charged later if you are successful in the drawing. Your application can be voided if your credit or debit card is invalid or refused.

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Applying online is quick and easy!

The only way to apply for a 2008 Utah turkey permit is online at wildlife.utah.gov. There are many advantages to applying online:

- you can apply from your home, office or any location that has Internet access
- you can submit your application within minutes and receive an e-mail confirmation
- your application won't be lost in the mail
- the application alerts you if you make an error
- the application provides you with the correct hunt numbers
- drawing results will be sent to your e-mail address
- you'll receive a postcard the following year that reminds you about that year's turkey application period

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Important dates for turkey hunters

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-3

November 28: Applications available

You can apply for a permit at wildlife.utah.gov. Residents and nonresidents may apply.

To apply for a resident permit, you must be a resident on the date the permit is purchased. January 31, 2008 is considered the purchase date of the permit and the date by which you must establish residency in the state of Utah. Please see the resident definition on page XX of this guide for information on whether you qualify as a resident.

When applying for a turkey permit, you may select up to three hunt choices. Please list your hunt choices in order of preference.

You may not apply for a turkey permit more than once each year, and group applications are not accepted.

December 26: Application deadline

Applications must be completed at wildlife.utah.gov and submitted no later than 11 p.m. on December 26, 2007.

January 9: Making changes to or withdrawing your application

You can make changes to your application, or withdraw your application from the drawing, by requesting the changes or withdrawal in writing by January 9, 2008.

Amendment and withdrawal forms are available at wildlife.utah.gov and at Division offices. The forms request all of the information you'll need to change or withdraw your application.

If you withdraw your application, the handling fees you submitted with your application will not be refunded.

January 31: Drawing results available

You will be notified of the drawing results by mail and e-mail. Drawing results also will be available at wildlife.utah.gov or may be obtained by calling 1-800-221-0659.

If you're successful in the drawing, you'll receive your permit in the mail by late February.

Please be aware that if you receive your permit, and the debit card or credit card you used for payment is refused, your permit becomes invalid and you may not hunt turkey. If this happens, please contact a Division office to resolve the problem.

February 15: Remaining permits available

Any permits remaining after the drawing may be obtained beginning at 8 a.m. on February 15, 2008 at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices. Remaining permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Note that license agents' operation hours vary; contact agents for their hours. A list of participating license agents can be found at wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/agent.html.

Permits for youth hunters

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-24

Up to 15 percent of the turkey permits in Utah have been set aside for young hunters. If you'll be 18 years of age or younger on January 31, 2008 (the day results of the turkey drawing are available) and you're not under a waiting period for turkeys, you'll be automatically entered in the youth permit drawing when you apply for your permit.

The future of turkey conservation rests in the hands of Utah's young people. The Utah Wildlife Board first approved setting aside permits for young hunters in 2002 to increase the interest young people have in turkeys and turkey conservation.

Bonus points

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-5

A turkey bonus point system was started in 2000 to increase your chance of drawing a turkey permit.

How your bonus points work in the draw:

- Fifty percent of the permits for each hunt unit are reserved for applicants who have the greatest number of bonus points.
- You receive a random drawing number for your current turkey application and a random drawing number for every turkey bonus point you have. Your lowest random number is then used in the drawing. (The lower your number, the better your chance at drawing a permit.)

How bonus points are earned:

- You receive a bonus point each time you're unsuccessful in the turkey drawing.
- Instead of applying for a turkey permit, you may apply for a bonus point if you won't be hunting turkeys during the upcoming season but still want a bonus point.
- You may apply for either a turkey permit or a turkey bonus point, but not both.
- When applying for a bonus point, you must include a \$10 handling fee to cover the cost of processing your application.

You cannot apply for or receive a bonus point if:

- You're under a waiting period for turkey.
- Your hunting privileges are suspended for turkey or small game.

Once you draw a turkey permit, you no longer have any bonus points but you'll start earning them again the next time you're eligible to apply for a turkey permit and are unsuccessful in that year's drawing.

Waiting periods

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-4

IF Option Two is selected this section will be removed

Waiting periods have been established to give turkey hunters a better chance at drawing a permit. If you obtain a turkey permit, you may not apply for a permit again for three years. For example, if you obtain a turkey permit for the 2008 hunt, you may not apply for a turkey permit again until applications are accepted for the 2011 hunt. Also, please remember that if you obtained a turkey permit for the 2006 or 2007 hunts, you may not apply for a turkey permit for the 2008 hunt.

Taking successful applicants out of the drawing reduces the number of hunters applying for a permit, which increases the odds the remaining applicants have of drawing a permit.

You can't apply for a turkey permit if you're under a waiting period, but you may purchase a permit if any remain after the drawing. If you purchase a permit after the drawing, you incur a new waiting period. For example, if you obtained a

turkey permit for the 2007 hunt, you would have to wait until 2010 to apply for a permit again. If you bought a remaining permit for the 2008 hunt, you would incur a new waiting period and would have to wait until 2011 to apply for a permit again.

Waiting periods do not apply to conservation, landowner, private Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit or poaching reported reward permits. More information about these permits is available on pages X-X of this guide.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Get involved in the decision-making process regarding Utah wildlife management, rules and regulations. Attend your local wildlife Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meetings. The Utah State Legislature created the RACs in the early 1990s to gather public input from citizens at the grassroots level about wildlife management issues. The five RACs in the state each consist of 12 to 15 members who represent various interests and groups, including:

- agriculture
- sportsmen
- nonconsumptive wildlife
- locally elected public officials
- federal land management agencies
- public at large

The RACs gather public input at regularly scheduled meetings throughout the state and make recommendations to the Utah Wildlife Board in an advisory capacity. The Wildlife Board relies heavily on input from the RACs when establishing policy, rules and regulations for the Division of Wildlife Resources.

In these open public meetings, citizens are encouraged to ask questions and express opinions and ideas in a structured forum. This is your opportunity to make a difference.

Regional Advisory Council chairs

Central Region

Ed Kent
115 S 1100 E #807
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
(801) 573-0770
flyfisherkent@msn.com

Southeastern Region

James Gilson
PO Box 787
Castledale, UT 84513
jtgilson@emerytelcom.net

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brad1F1@aol.com

UDWR RAC/Board Coordinator
Staci Coons
stacicoons@utah.gov

For more information on the RACs, visit
wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings.

FIELD REQUIREMENTS

Utah Code § 23-20-25

Several rules have been established to regulate turkey hunting in Utah. These rules help ensure turkeys are hunted ethically and help keep you safe while in the field. Please be familiar with the requirements for carrying and using firearms and archery tackle, the different types of hunting methods that may and may not be used and what you're required to do with any turkey you take.

To help the Division fulfill its responsibility as trustee and custodian of Utah's wildlife, Division conservation officers and biologists monitor the taking and possession of turkeys and the required permits and firearms and equipment used for hunting. You should expect to encounter conservation officers and biologists checking hunters in the field and at checkpoints.

If you're contacted by a conservation officer, you must provide the officer with the items he or she requests, including any licenses and permits required for hunting, any devices used to participate in hunting and any game that you've taken. These contacts allow the Division to collect valuable information about turkeys in Utah.

Hunting methods

Several rules apply to the methods that may be used to hunt turkeys in Utah.

Baiting

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-12

Baiting is an illegal activity that involves the spreading of shelled, shucked or unshucked grain, feed or salt to lure, attract or entice turkeys to an area. You may not hunt turkeys by baiting. You also cannot hunt on or over any baited area if you know, or reasonably should know, that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be a baited area for 10 days after the bait has been removed from the area, or for 10 days after the bait in the area has been eaten.

You can take turkey on lands or areas that have not been baited, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown. For example, a farmer shredding corn in a field and letting the corn remain where it fell.

Falconry

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-10

A Falconer may not release a raptor on turkeys.

Live decoys and electronic calls

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-11

You may not use live decoys; recordings or tapes of turkey calls or sounds; or electronically amplified imitations of turkey calls to take turkeys.

Sitting or roosting turkeys

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-13

You may not take any turkey that is sitting in a tree.

Spotlighting

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-19

You may not use a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate any protected wildlife, including turkey, while having in your possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife.

The use of a spotlight or other artificial light in any area where protected wildlife are generally found is prima facie evidence of attempting to locate protected wildlife. (Prima facie evidence means that if you're spotlighting, the burden of proof falls on you to prove that you were not attempting to locate protected wildlife.)

The provisions of this section do not apply to the use of the headlights of a motor vehicle or other artificial light in a

usual manner where there is no attempt or intent to locate protected wildlife, or if you're licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code, provided you're not utilizing the concealed weapon to hunt or take wildlife.

Trespassing

Utah Code §§ 23-20-14 and 23-20-3.5

While taking wildlife or engaging in wildlife-related activities, you may not:

- enter upon privately owned land that is cultivated or properly posted without the permission of the owner or person in charge of the land;
- refuse to immediately leave the private land if requested to do so by the owner or person in charge; or
- obstruct any entrance or exit to private land.

"Cultivated land" is land that is readily identifiable as land whose soil is loosened or broken up for the raising of crops, land used for the raising of crops, or a pasture that is artificially irrigated.

"Permission" means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private land that is cultivated or properly posted. Permission must include:

- the signature of the owner or person in charge;
- the name of the person being given permission;
- the appropriate dates; and
- a general description of the land.

"Properly posted" means that "No Trespassing" signs or a minimum of 100 square inches of bright yellow, bright orange or fluorescent paint are displayed at all corners, fishing streams crossing property lines, roads, gates and rights-of-way entering the land. If metal fence posts are used, the entire exterior side must be painted.

You may not post private property you do not own or legally control or land that is open to the public as provided by Utah Code § 23-21-4.

In addition, it is unlawful to take protected wildlife or its parts while trespassing in violation of Utah Code § 23-20-14.

Use of dogs

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-16

Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve turkeys during open hunting seasons.

Dogs are not allowed on state wildlife management or waterfowl management areas except during open hunting seasons or as posted by the Division.

Firearms and archery tackle

Several rules apply to the type of shotguns, ammunition and archery tackle that may be used to take turkeys in Utah.

Firearms and archery equipment

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-7

Turkeys may be taken only with a bow and broadhead arrows, or a shotgun no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge, firing shot between BB and no. 6 in size.

Loaded firearms in a vehicle

Utah Code §§ 76-10-502 and 76-10-505

You may not carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle. A pistol, revolver, rifle or shotgun is considered loaded when an unfired cartridge, shell or projectile is in the firing position.

Pistols and revolvers are also considered loaded when an unfired cartridge, shell or projectile is in a position whereby the manual operation of any mechanism once would cause the unfired cartridge, shell or projectile to fire.

A muzzleloading firearm is considered loaded when it is capped or primed and has a powder charge and ball or shot in the barrel or cylinders.

Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm

Utah Code § 76-10-508 and Utah Admin. Code R657-12

You may not discharge a firearm:

- from a vehicle;
- from, upon or across any highway;
- at power lines; or
- without written permission from the owner or person in charge of the land within 600 feet of:
 - a house, dwelling or any other building; or
 - any structure in which a domestic animal is kept or fed, including a barn, poultry yard, corral, feeding pen or stockyard.

State parks

Utah Admin. Code R651-614-4

Hunting any wildlife is prohibited within the boundaries of all state park areas, except those designated open to hunting by the Division of Parks and Recreation in Utah Admin. Code R651-614-4.

In park areas that are designated open to hunting, hunting with shotguns or archery tackle is prohibited within one-quarter miles of all park facilities, including buildings, camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps and developed beaches.

<info box>

CAN YOU POSSESS A WEAPON?

Restricted persons and the possession of dangerous weapons

Utah Code § 76-10-503

It is illegal under Utah Code Section 76-10-503 to possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader, archery tackle or any other dangerous weapon if you:

- Have been convicted of or are under indictment for any felony offense;
- Are on probation or parole for a felony offense;
- Are on parole from a secure facility;
- Have been adjudicated delinquent (juvenile) in the last seven years of an offense that, if committed by an adult, would have been a felony;
- Are an unlawful user of a controlled substance;
- Have been found not guilty by reason of insanity for a felony offense;
- Have been found mentally incompetent to stand trial for a felony offense;
- Have been adjudicated mentally defective as provided in the federal Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act;
- Have been committed to a mental institution;
- Are an alien who is illegally in the United States;
- Have been dishonorably discharged from the armed forces; or
- Have renounced your citizenship as a United States citizen.

The purchase or possession of any hunting license, permit, tag or certificate of registration from the Division of Wildlife Resources does not authorize the holder to legally possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader, archery tackle or any other dangerous weapon while hunting if they are otherwise restricted from possessing these weapons under Section 76-10-503.

<end info box>

Possession of turkey

Once you've taken a turkey, several rules apply to the use of the game you've taken.

Waste of game

Utah Code § 23-20-8 and Utah Admin. Code R657-54-18 and R657-54-21

You may not waste any turkey or permit it to be wasted or spoiled. (Waste means to abandon a turkey or allow it to spoil or be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use. For example, using the meat as fertilizer or for trapping bait is not considered a beneficial use of the meat.)

In addition, you may not kill or cripple any turkey without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it. You must immediately kill any turkey you wound and tag the bird.

Tagging requirements

Utah Code § 23-20-30 and Utah Admin. Code R657-54-14

After you've taken a turkey, you must tag the bird before you move the carcass from or leave the site of the kill.

To tag a turkey, completely detach the tag from your turkey permit and completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the turkey was taken and the sex of the turkey. Then attach the tag to the bird so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

You may not remove more than one notch indicating date or sex, or tag more than one turkey using the same tag. Also, you may not hunt or pursue turkeys after any of the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from your permit.

Identification of species and sex

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-15

The head and beard of a turkey must remain attached to the bird while it's being transported.

Exporting harvested turkeys from Utah

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-20

You may export turkey or their parts from Utah only if:

- you harvested the turkey and possess a valid permit corresponding to the tag; or
- if you're not the person who harvested the turkey, you must obtain a shipping permit from the Division.

Donating turkeys

Utah Code § 23-20-9

You may donate, or give, a turkey or its parts to another person only at the following places:

- The residence of the donor
- The residence of the person receiving the turkey or its parts
- A meat locker
- A storage plant
- A meat processing facility

A written statement of donation must be kept with the turkey or its parts showing:

- the number and species of wildlife or parts donated;
- the date of donation;
- the permit number of the donor; and
- the signature of the donor.

TURKEY RECORDS IN UTAH

Every spring, the Division of Wildlife Resources receives calls from excited wild turkey hunters.

"I shot a 23-pound bird with a 12-inch beard and 1 1/8-inch spurs; man, it's a nice bird. How does it stack up against other turkeys that have been taken in the state?" the hunter will often ask.

The DWR doesn't keep records for trophy turkeys that are taken in Utah, but there's good news for hunters—the National Wild Turkey Federation does. To learn about trophy turkeys taken across the country, including those taken in Utah, visit the NWTf's Web site at nwtf.org/all_about_turkeys/turkey_records.php. Who knows, maybe a turkey you take in Utah will end up on the site some day.

Protection from discrimination: The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and must abide by federal laws. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information please write to: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights Programs-External Programs, 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203.

Division funding: The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and through federal aid made possible by an excise tax on the sale of firearms and other hunting- and fishing-related equipment.

DEFINITIONS

Utah Code § 23-13-2 and Utah Admin. Code R657-54-2

Bait means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices birds.

Falconry means the sport of taking quarry by means of a trained raptor.

Hunting means to take or pursue a reptile, amphibian, bird or mammal by any means.

Limited entry hunt means any hunt listed in the hunt tables of this guide.

Limited entry permit means any permit obtained for a limited entry hunt by any means, including conservation permits and sportsman permits.

Nonresident means a person who does not qualify as a resident.

Permit means a document, including a stamp, which grants authority to engage in specified activities under the Wildlife Resources Code or a rule or proclamation of the Wildlife Board.

Possession means actual or constructive possession.

Resident means a person who has a fixed permanent home and principal establishment in Utah for six consecutive months immediately preceding the purchase of a license or permit and who DOES NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

You retain your Utah residency if you leave Utah to serve in the armed forces of the United States or for religious or

educational purposes and do NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

If you're a member of the armed forces of the United States, you and your dependents are residents as of the date you report for duty under assigned orders in Utah, if:

- you are NOT on temporary duty in Utah.
- you do NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.
- you present a copy of your assignment orders to a Division office to verify your qualification as a resident.

If you're a nonresident attending an institution of higher learning in Utah as a full-time student, you may qualify as a resident if you have been present in Utah for 60 consecutive days immediately preceding the purchase of the license or permit and do NOT claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

A Utah resident license or permit is invalid if a resident license for hunting, fishing or trapping is purchased in any other state or country.

You DO NOT qualify as a resident if you are an absentee landowner paying property tax on land in Utah.

Tag means a card, label or other identification device issued for attachment to the carcass of protected wildlife.

Take means to hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, possess, angle, seine, trap or kill any protected wildlife; or attempt any action referred to above.

Waste means to abandon protected wildlife or to allow protected wildlife to spoil or to be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use.

HOW TO DETERMINE THE AGE OF A SPRING TURKEY

Juveniles, or jakes (sub-adult male turkeys less than one year old), can be distinguished from adult gobblers by the coloration (barring) on their wings, the length of their beards and spurs and the shape of their tail feathers.

SHOOTING HOURS

Utah Admin. Code R657-54-8

You may take turkeys from 30 minutes before official sunrise until 30 minutes after official sunset.

The official sunrise and sunset times change daily. The times when sunrise and sunset occur are also different across the state. Depending on your location, you may need to add or subtract minutes from the sunrise and sunset times listed in the Official Sunrise/Sunset table that follows.

Please consult the Time Zone Map at the right to learn whether you need to add or subtract minutes from the times listed in the table.

WILD TURKEY HUNT TABLES

Revised July 18, 2007